

Application No.: 10/805,942
Response to FOA of 02/09/06

Remarks

In the present response, seven claims (1, 3, 7, 13, 15, 20, and 22) are amended; and four claims (2, 14, 21, and 27) are canceled. Claims are amended and canceled merely to put this application in condition for allowance based on allowable subject matter.

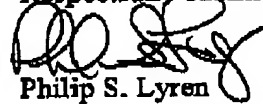
Claims 1, 3 – 13, 15 – 20, and 22 – 26 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections: 35 USC § 102(b) and 103

Claims 1, 11-12, 13, 18-19, 20, and 25-27 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 6,472,899 (Osborn). Further, claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Osburn in view of USPN 5,949,798 (Sakaguchi). These rejections are moot since each of the independent claims is amended to incorporate a dependent claim previously indicated as being allowed.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number 571-273-8300 on this 3rd day of May, 2006.

By 
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